FIRST COMICS
DELUXE SERIES

SEPT. $1.75
NO. 3
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EVANGELINE™

HUNT-VILLAGRÁN

WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?

It is the 23rd century, and many things have changed... and many things remain the same. Humans have colonized the stars... and they still persecute each other for religious beliefs. Enter **Evangeline**: executioner and saviour. She has a special mission... and friends in *very* high places.

She is an expert at hand-to-hand combat and is proficient with a wide variety of wea - pons; but she has a special affinity for the old-fashioned bow and arrow.

Her special mission: to protect and avenge victims of religious persecution throughout the galaxy.

And she's already had a lot of experience. She avenged the senseless slaughter of an orphanage full of innocent children and nuns on Mars and dispatched a gang of interstellar highjackers who mistook her for a defenseless countess.

Her friends: the mysterious **Cardinal Szn**, the high-ranking Vatican official who recruited Evangeline; and **Jonny Six**, a professional thief.

Who is Evangeline? She's a nun — a very *dangerous* nun.

LAST ISSUE: Part of Evangeline's origin was revealed when she recalled the events which led to her first meeting with the mysterious Cardinal Szn. Raised in a Catholic orphanage in Bolivia, Evangeline showed an early aptitude for the bow and arrow and used her skills to save the orphanage from bandits posing as "revolutionaries." This brought her to the attention of Szn, who has "guided" her life ever since...

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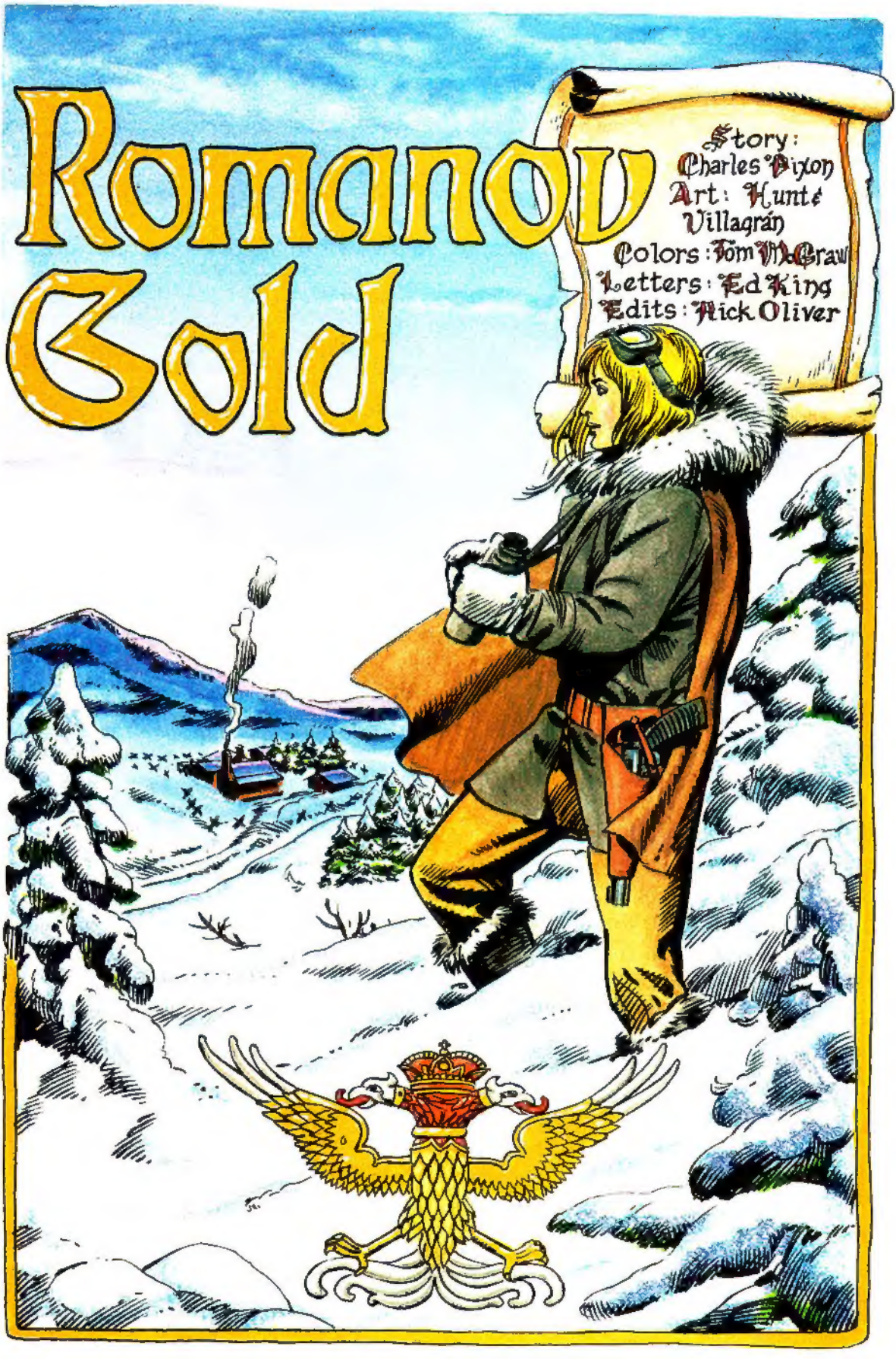
Romanov Gold
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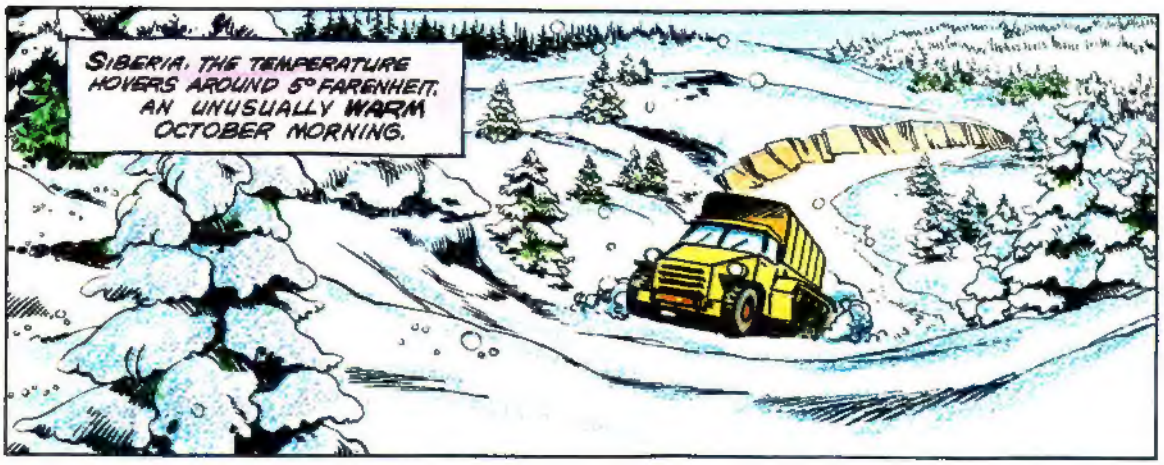
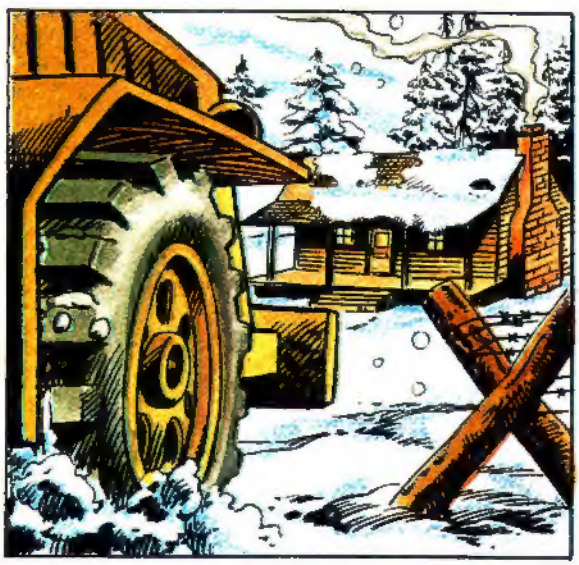
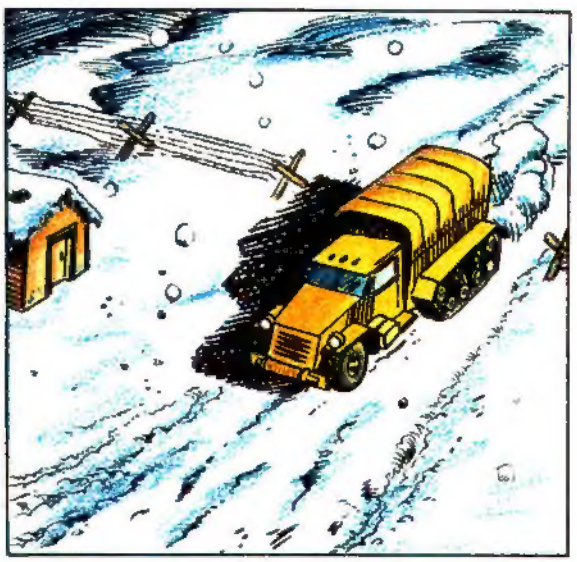
THE VATICAN.
AND THIS GROUP OF CARTONS?
PRE-REVOLUTION RUSSIA, CIRCA 1898.
I FORGET: WAS THE REVOLUTION BEFORE THE PLAGUE OR AFTER?
THE REVOLUTION WAS EARLY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.
THE HOLY PURGE WAS A LITTLE OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
RUSSIAN HISTORY NEVER WAS A FAVORITE OF MINE.
I DON'T THINK WE'LL EVER FINISH HERE. SO MUCH TO CATALOG.
NOW, SISTER, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE CLASSIFY ALL OF THIS. THERE MAY BE IMPORTANT HOLY RELICS HIDDEN AWAY DOWN HERE, FORGOTTEN ALL THESE YEARS.
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WE MIGHT FIND DOWN HERE.
SISTER!
LOOK AT THIS!
I THINK WE SHOULD SHOW THIS TO MOTHER SUPERIOR.

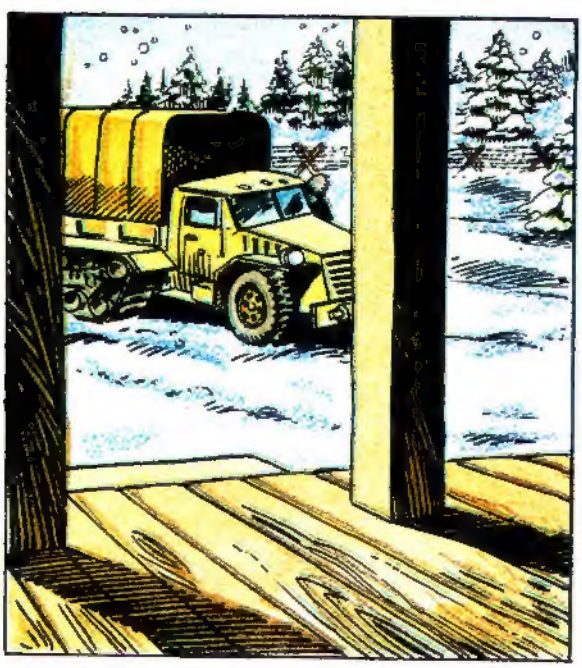
"...AND IN HIS NAME WE SERVE MANKIND."
YOUR EXCELLENCE?
YES?
OUR LABORATORY SAYS THAT THE BAR IS GENUINE. IT IS FROM THE TREASURE OF CZAR NICHOLAS II. THE MAP IS HELPFUL, IF CRUDELY DRAWN.
THEN WE WILL SEND OUR BEST OPERATIVE TO RECOVER THE GOLD.
THIS TREASURE BELONGS TO THE CHURCH--NOT TO THE GODLESS RUSSIANS.
YOUR EXCELLENCE, THE GOLD COULD WEIGH AS MUCH AS SIXTY TONS. WHERE WILL WE GET A TRANSPORT THAT LARGE?
SEND A JESUIT TO FIND IT. THEY LOVE THIS SORT OF INTRIGUE.

AN ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF NORTH AFRICA.
CAREFUL WITH THAT NOW.
WE DENT HIS PRECIOUS WARHEADS AND MBUTO WILL HAVE MY HEAD FOR SURE.
HAGER! A WORD WITH YOU.
BROTHER PHILLIP! I DIDN'T KNOW THEY LET YOU OUT OF THE MONASTERY WITHOUT A LEASH.
I'M HERE UNDER ORDERS OF THE CARDINAL.
GRRRRR
WHAT'S HE WANT? I DON'T WORK FOR THE CHURCH ANYMORE.
WE NEED A CARGO CRAFT. THE LARGEST YOU CAN FIND.
WE HAVE OVER FIFTY TONS WAITING IN SIBERIA. I'LL GIVE YOU COORDINATES AS SOON AS OUR AGENT ON THE GROUND LOCATES THE CARGO.
GOD HELP THE POOR SOUL YOU'VE SENT INTO THAT LAWLESS HELLHOLE.


SIBERIA. THE TEMPERATURE HOVERS AROUND 5° FARENHEIT. AN UNUSUALLY WARM OCTOBER MORNING.







DO YOU HAVE ANY *PETROL* FOR TRADE?

IF THE TRADE IS RIGHT.

I HAVE A *CASE* OF THESE IN MY TRUCK.

TRADE WITH *ME*, GIRL. I'LL GIVE YOU SOME PETROL AND YOU CAN *KEEP* YOUR PEACHES.

OOOOOOOH.

I CAN LET YOU HAVE TEN GALLONS.

PERHAPS I CAN SPARE THREE JERRY CANS.
THAT WILL DO.
OH... NO.
KAHZAKIS.
I WILL GET YOUR PETROL AND THEN YOU'D BEST BE ON YOUR...
HO, INKEEP!
IS THIS YOUR DAUGHTER? WHY HAVE YOU KEPT HER HIDDEN?
SHE IS PRETTY. RARE TO SEE A GIRL HERE. EVEN RARER TO SEE A PRETTY ONE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, GIRL?
EVANGELINE.

TAKE HER INTO THE SHED. WE MAY AS WELL BE OUT OF THE WIND.
DA, HEE! OUT OF THE WIND!
OOF!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM! BLAM!
HERE, TAKE THESE AND BE GONE. I DIDN'T NEED TROUBLE WITH KAHZAKS.

FIVE MILES DISTANT.
IS GOOD GUN.
NO ONE COULD MISS WITH SUCH A GUN.
NO ONE, MYKO.
...NO... GOD NO...
KRAK KRAK KRAK KRAK
HA! CUT HIM IN HALF JUST ABOUT!
MYKOYANOFF!

FIRST NOTES

LONE WOLF and MILLER

Since its debut in Japan in 1970 as *Kozure Okami*, the 28 volume epic by writer **Kazuo Koike** and artist **Goseki Kojima** has set the standard for the Samurai graphic story genre. With an incredible Japanese circulation of over six million copies sold, **Lone Wolf and Cub** has spawned six live action theatrical films, a television series, four stage plays, and five hit records (based on the property.)

And now First introduces the English-language edition of **Lone Wolf and Cub** as a monthly, 64 page, square bound book for only $1.95 — with a special bonus premiere issue of 96 pages for the same low price.

Renowned comics writer and artist **Frank Miller** will provide new full-color covers for the first twelve issues and an ongoing series of introductions. Collaborating with Miller on the covers will be colorist **Lynn Varley.**

NEW HAWKMOON SERIES

First Comics begins the third limited series in the adaptation of **Michael Moorcock's** *History of the Runestaff*, continuing the storylines of *The Jewel in the Skull* and *The Mad God's Amulet.* Joining artist **Rafael Kayanan** on **Hawkmoon: The Sword of the Dawn** is scripter **Roger Salick.** A freelance journalist with a regular feature in the *Milwaukee Journal*, Salick was encouraged to expand into the comics medium by **Mike Baron.** Salick also writes the Judah Maccabee back-up series in **Nexus.**

Dorian Hawkmoon and his companions have enjoyed a time of relative tranquility since Castle Brass was transported to another dimension to avoid destruction by Baron Meliadus' horde. But now the hidden location of the Kamarg has been discovered, and Hawkmoon and D'Averc must travel to Londra to learn how much the Dark Empire knows.

ALL-DEAD GRIMJACK?

Is there life after death? Do heaven and hell exist? If they do, which one will be waiting for John Gaunt?

Everybody dies sometime, and almost everybody in **Grimjack** #38 has already found that out — the hard way!

In this issue, a very dead hero goes to heaven. . and then straight to hell!

Don't worry, it's only a comic book. Maybe next issue we'll say it was all just a bad dream. Maybe. But *don't* count on it.

FIRST IN MAY

American Flagg #44: They look like Reuben Flagg, and they dress like Reuben Flagg — but what do they want with the *real* Reuben Flagg? Mandy's the target of unknown assassins, and Reuben's about to be "rescued" by... himself? By **Marc DeMatteis** and **Mark Badger**

Badger #27: Wisconsin *invaded*? By *roaches*? The Roach Wrangler is leading an army of roaches across the border to destroy Barneveld! By **Mike Baron** and **Bill Reinhold.** Deluxe series.

The Chronicles of Corum #5: Beginning the adaptation of *The Queen of the Swords* by **Michael Moorcock.** Corum is visited by a strangely familiar ally. By **Mike Baron, Mike Mignola** and **Kelley Jones.** Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Dreadstar #32: Dreadstar wakes from his two year coma to find himself in a "Brave New World," one that is decidedly different than he had envisioned — and one that may not need superheroes — or *want* Vanth Dreadstar. By **Jim Starlin** and **Sam Grainger.** Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Dynamo Joe #11: Until now, the Mellenares have only been able to travel at sub-light speeds. But one can learn a lot from one's enemies, and the Mellenares have learned the secrets of hyperspace! By **Phil Foglio, Doug Rice** and **Brian Thomas.** And the conclusion to Cargonauts by Foglio and **Paul Guinan**

Evangeline #3: Evangeline is sent to Siberia to retrieve "Romanov's Gold." By **Charles Dixon, Judith Hunt** and **Ricardo Villagran.** Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Grimjack #38: Is there life after death? Is there a heaven and a hell? And if the soul departs, what happens to the *body*? John Gaunt is about to discover the answers to all these questions! And more!! By **John Ostrander** and **Tom Mandrake.** And Murden's Bar by Ostrander and **Barry Crain.**

Hawkmoon: The Sword of the Dawn #1: Beginning the adaptation of the third book in **Michael Moorcock's** *History of the Runestaff.* By **Roger Salick** and **Rafael Kayanan.** Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

Jon Sable, Freelance #51: Sable has to babysit Eden Kendall's son for twenty-four hours. How much trouble can a kid get into in one day? Plenty — if he goes around pretending to be Jon Sable. By **Mike Grell** and **Gerald Forton** Deluxe series.

Lone Wolf and Cub #1: The beginning of the greatest Japanese Samurai epic of all time. By **Kazuo Koike** and **Goseki Kojima.** With full color covers by **Frank Miller.** Black & white. 96 pages.

Nexus #36: Ylum's newest refugee asks Nexus to rescue her poet uncle who is a political prisoner in a Sov prison. By **Mike Baron, Steve Rude** and **John Nyberg** Deluxe series.

MYKOYANOFF! OSTRO HAS BEEN SLAIN!
OSTRO! HE WAS LIKE A SON TO ME!
HE WAS A SON TO YOU.
THAT IS RIGHT. WHO KILLED HIM?
A WOMAN. SHE KILLED SEMANOV AND GLUBOV ALSO.
A WOMAN! A WOMAN DEFIES THE WOLF OF THE STEPPE. MOUNT UP!
MYKO, WHAT OF THE PRISONERS?
UH?
THIS FOR THE PRISONERS.
AH, HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA

A HUNDRED MILES DISTANT.
ENGINE TEMPERATURE HIGH... WATER LEVEL LOW... THANK YOU...

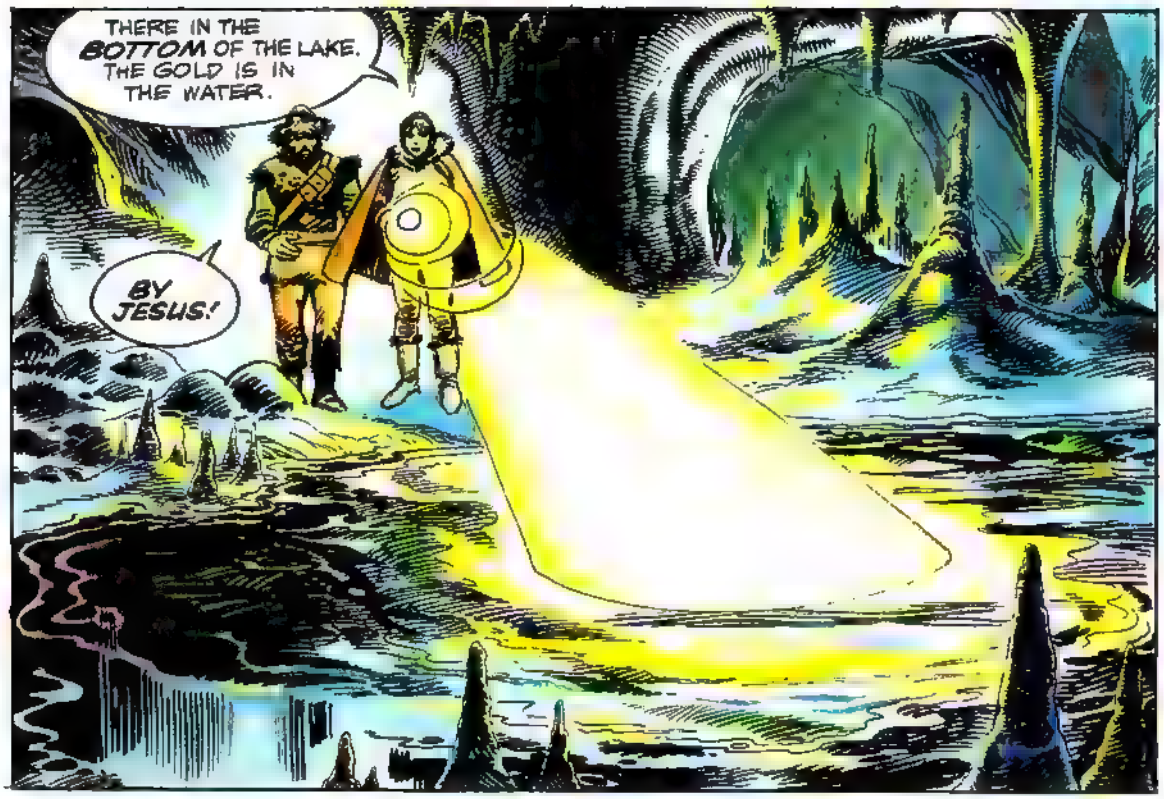
UF!
AK!
NNNGH
WHUMP!
AAAAAAAH!
KLONG!
UNK!
KRAK
K-KRUNCH!
AOOOOOW!
WHRACK!
UHH...

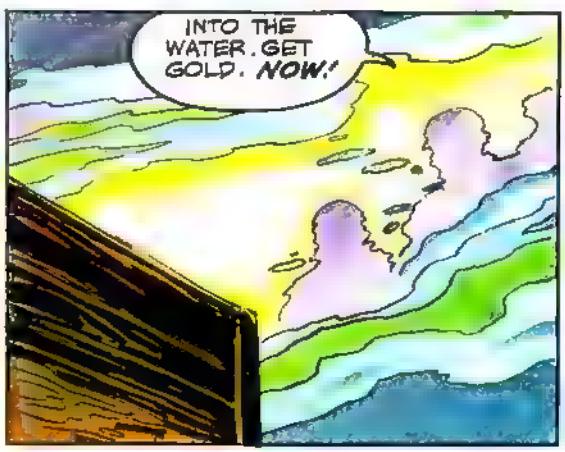
YOU NO FIGHT! WE ROB!
UH?
HAVE GUNS BACK. BIG MISTAKE.
YOU ARE RELIGIOUS?
YES? BHUTO GOOD CATRICK. ALL GOOD CATRICKS!
HUNT WHEELER

SICKNESS KILL GODLESS WHITE RUSSIANS.
BHUTO AND HIS PEOPLE LOVE CATRICK GOD.
I SEE. THEN MAYBE YOU GOOD CATHOLICS CAN HELP ME.
OH, YES, WE HELP OUR BROTHERS... AND SISTERS.
HOW FAR ARE WE FROM HERE?
YOU WAIT.
OTAH!
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MAP.
OTAH HAS MAP. GOOD MAP.
CAN YOU TAKE ME THERE? THERE. YES?
MOST CERTAIN YES! WE RIDE!

MYKO, THE BITCH IN THE TRUCK HAS BEEN JOINED BY HORSEMEN.
A LOT OF HORSEMEN.
SO SHE HAS SOME FRIENDS.
MYKO, WE HAVE NOT ENOUGH MEN. LET HER GO. LET'S GO BACK HOME AND GET DRUNK.
I DON'T CARE IF THE DEVIL HIMSELF IS RIDING WITH HER! WE RIDE AFTER HER!
BUT MYKO...
BOOM!
ANYONE ELSE WANT TO GO HOME?

THIS IS THE ONLY LIKELY PLACE AROUND HERE. IT WAS A MINE OF SOME SORT
SALT MINE. VERY OLD. HOW TO MOVE THE ROCKS?
NOTHING A FEW POUNDS OF EXPLOSIVES WON'T MOVE.
BUH-RMMMMMM!
IT IS CLEAR. GOOD.
I HEAR WATER DRIPPING.
IS HOW THEY GET SALT. PUMP IN WATER, PUMP OUT SALT WATER.


THERE IN THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE. THE GOLD IS IN THE WATER.
BY JESUS!


INTO THE WATER. GET GOLD. NOW!

GOLD!

I'M NOT SURE IF YOU UNDERSTAND-- BUT ALL I WANT IS THE GOLD. YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING ELSE.
YES! YES! MANY JEWELS! MUCH DIAMONDS.

MY ORDERS SAID NOTHING ABOUT GEMS.
NOW, LET'S GET THIS UP TO THE SURFACE. I'LL RADIO FOR TRANSPORT.

I THINK I SEE--
SEE WHAT, A YAK?
AGHK!
BLAM!
HORSEMEN! HORSEMEN!
DAMN BASTARD COSSACKS!
GRAB YOUR GUNS AND FOLLOW ME!
THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT!
THEY ARE HERE FOR THE GOLD!
SEND SOME MEN TO COVER THE MINE ENTRANCE.
BRATTA! BRATTA! BRATTA!
VIP! VIP!
BLAM!
VIP! VIP!

A WOMAN! THAT MUST BE HER! BRING HER TO ME!
BLAM! BLAM! VIIP! VIIP!
HYAAA

AH!
SPLOTCH!
?
DAMN YOU, YESTA! YOU BLOCK SHOT!
16 SNIPER!
15 SNIPER! TAKE CARE!
DAMN!
BLAM!
UNH!

BHUTO GOOD CATRICK?... DAMN RIGHT... BHUTO GOOD CATRICK.
YES, BHUTO...
...A GOOD CATHOLIC.
...A BRAVE CATHOLIC.
UH? WHAT IS THIS NOW?
WHUP! WHUP! WHUP! WHUP!

BRATTA!
BRAATTTA!
ANGEL! THEY DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WERE THE OPERATIVE.
THANKS FOR COMING DOWN ANYWAY.
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
VIIP! VIIP!
ALWAYS THE SAME, EH ANGEL? WELL, LET'S KICK SOME BUTT AND GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
ALWAYS THE SAME, HAGER.
BLAM!
BRRRRT!
BRATTA! BRATTA!
AAAAAAAAAH!
BRRRRR!
VIIP! VIIP!
VEEOW!

WE... ARE LOST... MYKOYANOV.
NO... IT CANNOT BE SO...
THIS CANNOT HAPPEN TO THE WOLF OF THE STEPPES!
BRRRRRT! VIIP! VIIP! VIIP
I REALLY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WOULD BE YOU THEY'D SEND OUT TO THIS GODFORSAKEN PLACE.
NOT SO GODFORSAKEN.
SO LET'S GET SZN'S LOOT ON THE TRANSPORT AND GET OUR TAILS OUT OF HERE.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO FIRST.

" INDEED, I PROMISE YOU, TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE."
WHUP! WHUP! WHUP! WHUP! WHUP!
WELL, THAT'S MORE GOLD FOR THE CARDINAL'S COFFERS, AND A BIG BONUS FOR OLD HAGER.
AND ONE STEP CLOSER TO HEAVEN FOR SISTER EVANGELINE, EH?
EH?
SLEEP, ANGEL. SLEEP WELL.

...UH
...UH...?
IS NO ONE LEFT? NO ONE BUT THE WOLF OF THE STEPPE?
UH?
...NO
...NO...
GRRRRR
NOOOOOO.

THE END